



Lizabeth by the grace of God, Queene of Englande, Fraunce, and Irelande, defendour of the sayth. &c. To all and singuler our Iustices of peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, and other our officers, of what estate, degree, or condition he or they be, and to euery of them, greetynge. wheras in the Parliament holden at westminster, in the. xxxiii. yere of the raigne of our late father of worthy memorie, kynge Henrie the eyght. one acte or statute was then and there made for the mayntenaunce of artillerie, and debarryng of vnlawfull games: By the which good statute, amongst many other thynges, it

was prouided, that the fathers, gouernours, and maisters of the youth of this our Realme, shoulde in diuers and sundry sortes trayne and byng by their youth in shootynge in the long bowe, and shoulde haue for that purpose seuerall bowes and arrowes, in number and quantitie accordynge to their ages and yeres, vpon such payne and penaltie as is expessed in the sayd statute: as by the same statute more at large it doth and may appeare. And being geuen to vnderstande, that for lacke of due searche whether euery person or persons in fourme abouesayde haue bowe and arrowes accordynge to the tenour of the sayde acte, the sayde good statute is in that behalfe in the most partes of this our Realme vtterly forgotten, and not accomplished. we haue therfore thought it good for diuers good considerations especially mouynge, to nominate, assigne, and appoynt our trustie and welbeloued A. B. C. D. to be our Commissioners: geuyng them and euery of them full power and auctoritie by vertue of these presentes, in our name, not only from tyme to tyme as often as neede shall require, to make due and lawfull searche in euery place within our Countie of S. as well within liberties as without, as well for such as vse vnlawfull games, as also for such as kepe houses or alleys for vnlawfull games: but also whether euery seuerall person or persons for him selfe, his seruantes, and other youth in his or their seuerall houses, haue sufficient furniture and prouision of bowe and arrowes, and haue and do vse and occupie the same accordynge to the true meanyng of the sayde statute. The which bowe and arrowes shalbe brought to some convenient place or places, within the seuerall townes and parishes where such parties dwell, by the discretion of you our sayde Iustices or other our sayde Commissioners, or any of them, there to be viewed and seene by our sayde Commissioners accordingly. vpon which search, viewe, and examination by our sayde Commissioners aboue named, or any of them, yf there shalbe founde any person or persons offendynge, or wantynge in any the premisles contrary to the fourme of the sayde statute: then our pleasure is, that such of our sayde Commissioners as shall fynde the sayde offences, shall see a reformation therein, or at the least present the same, with the names and dwelling places of all and euery person and persons so offendynge, and the tyme and continuance of theyr sayde seuerall offences, in wrytyng, vnder theyr handes & seales before you our sayde Iustices, at the generall sessions of the peace to be holden within the sayde Countie next after the fyndynge of the sayde defaultes: To the intent that you may therbyon certifie vs into our courte of Chauncerie, wherby we may further procede against suche offendours, as shalbe most agreeable to the order of our lawes prouided in that behalfe. wherfore we wyll and commaunde you our sayde Iustices and other our officers abouesayde, to be aidynge, helping, and assisting our said Commissioners, and euery of them, in the due execution aswel of this our Commission, as of the sayde statute aboue rehearsed, in all thynges as appertayneth accordynge.

In witnesse wherof, we haue caused these our letters to be made pattentes. witnesse our selfe, &c.

God saue the Queene.

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